

CWS REDESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

CWS Redesign represents a comprehensive shift in how child welfare services will be administered in California. Through a multi-year effort, rooted deeply in county-level collaboration, the Redesign will guide efforts to improve the lives of children and families who come into contact with child welfare services. The Redesign represents an ambitious, thorough approach informed by a wide variety of stakeholders committed to its successful implementation.

The following is a selected list of highlights that can be expected as the Redesign is implemented.

- **Increased focus on prevention and strengthening families:** Community partnerships that form an integrated network of public and private resources and opportunities that supports families, engages community, uses a strength-based, universal approach, and has dedicated, sustainable and flexible funding.
- **A new intake process:** Shifting from adversarial “one size fits all” model; uses multi-disciplinary teams at intake to customize services and support to at-risk families
- **Engaging extended families as partners:** Diverting families in which child safety is not an immediate threat from the court system and engaging them as partners using methods such as family group decision-making.
- **Permanent connections:** Achieving permanence (by adoption, guardianship, returning home, or other alternatives) as quickly as possible for children removed from their homes, engaging families and using team decision making to reduce the number of placements.
- **Supported Transitions:** Older children exiting from the foster care system will be engaged in planning for and adequately supported during their transition, adequately prepared for adulthood and have a lifelong connection to a caring adult.
- **Focus on Outcomes:** Accountability focused on improving outcomes for children is assured by the new California Child Welfare Outcomes and Accountability System (annual Child and Family Services Reviews).
- **Excellence in the workforce:** Improved support and training for the workforce at all levels.
- **Fairness and equity:** Standardized approaches that assure statewide equity and reduce the disproportionate representation of African American and Native American children in the system.